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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,823	11/12/2003	Dirk Golz	DSC-196	6937
7590 09/08/2005 LERNER AND GREENBERG, P.A. POST OFFICE BOX 2480 HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480			EXAMINER HUNNINGS, TRAVIS R	
			ART UNIT 2632	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/706,823	Applicant(s) GOLZ ET AL.	
	Examiner Travis R. Hunnings	Art Unit 2632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-6 and 8 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Martter et al. (Martter; US Patent 6,137,072) for the record.

Regarding claim 1, Martter discloses *Control Panel* that has the following claimed subject matters:

The claimed operating panel configuration comprising a control circuit being a functional unit having at least one component selected from the group consisting of operating elements, control elements, switching elements, and display elements, said control circuit having a circuit front side is met by the control panel (10) having individual switches to control the various electrical functions of the appliance (col3 32-38);

The claimed operating panel configuration comprising an operational panel having a single opening formed therein receiving said control circuit, said operating panel having a panel front side adapted to a configuration of said circuit front side of said control circuit is met by the mounting of the control panel in the control section or box of the appliance as shown in figure 1 (col3 32-38).

Regarding claim 2, Martter discloses all of the claimed limitations. The claimed operating panel configuration wherein said control circuit is a control module in which all functions which are relevant in terms of control procedures and all operating and display elements including mechanical and optical functional elements are integrated is met by the control panel being used to control the various electrical functions of the appliance as seen in figure 1 (col3 32-38).

Regarding claim 3, Martter discloses all of the claimed limitations. The claimed operating panel configuration further comprising a power switch integrated into said control module is met by the control panel being used to control the various electrical functions of the appliance (col3 32-38). A power switch is an integral part of the electrical functioning of the device and would obviously be included.

Regarding claim 4, Martter discloses all of the claimed limitations. The claimed operating panel configuration wherein said circuit front side of said control module is adapted to said panel front side is met by the control panel being mounted in the control section or box of the appliance as can be seen in figures 1 and 2 (col3 32-38).

Regarding claim 5, Martter discloses all of the claimed limitations. The claimed operating panel configuration wherein said control front side of said control module has a region for information is met by the control panel including decorating coating formed thereon, such as, for example, by screen or graphic printing (col3 39-41).

Regarding claim 6, Martter discloses all of the claimed limitations. The claimed operating panel configuration wherein said region is provided with at least one of text and symbols is met by the control panel including decorating coating formed thereon, such as, for example, by screen or graphic printing (col3 39-41).

Regarding claim 8, Martter discloses all of the claimed limitations. The claimed operating panel configuration wherein said component is one of a plurality of components forming said control circuit is met by the control panel having individual switches to control the various electrical functions of the appliance and the claimed operating panel configuration wherein said operating panel does not contain any of said components is met by the control section or box of the appliance only mounting the control panel and not containing any of the control elements or individual switches as seen in figure 1 (col3 32-38).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claim 7 is again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martter in view of Yamada et al. (Yamada; US Patent Publication 2002/0052913) for the record.

Regarding claim 7, Martter disclose all of the claimed limitations except for the claimed operating panel configuration wherein said region has a display for changing items of information. Yamada discloses *User Support Apparatus And System Using Agents* that teaches including a Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) in a home appliance in order to provide indications and up-to-date information regarding the status of the appliance to the user (paragraph 131). Adding an LCD to the device of Martter would make the product easier to use by providing current feedback regarding the operation of the appliance. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device disclosed by Martter according to the teachings of Yamada to include an LCD for changing items of information.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 28 June 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the following:

Argument A: with regard to claim 1, applicant states that the prior art of Martter does not disclose a "function unit (module) in the sense of the invention of the present application."

Responses:

With regard to argument A, the claimed invention as written in claim 1 of the present application states:

“An operating panel configuration comprising: a control circuit being a functional unit having at least one component selected from the group consisting of operating elements, control elements, switching elements, and display elements, said control circuit having a circuit front side;”

The cited prior art of Martter discloses a *Control Panel* that has a “touch control panel for use in controlling an electrical device” which clearly meets the limitation of a “control circuit being a functional unit” that also clearly has at least a “control element.”

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

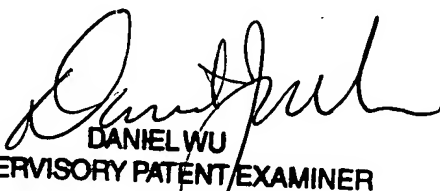
Art Unit: 2632

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Travis R. Hunnings whose telephone number is (571) 272-3118. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on (571) 272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TRH


DANIEL WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
9/05/05